

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7637
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0277

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR OAU AO
SUBJECT: ANGOLA IN UPCOMING OAU MEETING

REF: DAR 0087

1. IN MY RECENT CONVERSATIONS HERE, INCLUDING NUMEROUS CONTACTS AT LARGE OAU RECEPTION LAST NIGHT, SEVERAL PRO-MPLA AFRICANS (AND ALSO SOME UNINVOLVED WELL-WISHERS) HAVE SUGGESTED DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN USG AND MPLA ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY NYERERE IN REFTTEL. PURPOSE WOULD BE "FOR USG TO FIND OUT THAT MPLA IS NOT ALL THAT BAD".

2. I HAVE SHARPLY TURNED THESE SUGGESTIONS OFF, IN SOME CASES ASKING PRO-MPLA AFRICANS WHETHER THEY ARE WILLING TO HAVE DIRECT CONTACTS WITH FNLA AND UNITA (ANSWER OF COURSE IS NO). ANY CONTACT BETWEEN ME AND MPLA IN THIS HIGHLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS SIGN OF IMPENDING SHIFT IN USG POSITION, AND WOULD DISHEARTEN ANTI-MPLA FORCES WHOM WE ARE TRYING TO BOLSTER. PERHAPS AFTER OAU MEETING DEPT MIGHT WISH TO OPEN SUCH CONTACTS ELSEWHERE, BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME.
HUMMEL

SECRET

NNN

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